

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 100832Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9311

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT OECD AS JA

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN TRADE POLICY

REF: STATE 77387

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON JAPAN-AUSTRALIA TRADE WITH EMBASSY, FONOFF AND MITI OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT TREND OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS MORE IN TERMS OF BILATERAL SIGNIFICANCE THAN BRAOD, MULTILATERAL TRADE IMPLICATIONS. ACCORDING TO MITI (KINOSHITA, DIRECTOR, AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY BUREAU), ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF JAPAN'S DOLS 2 BILLION EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA ARE PRESENTLY AFFECTED AND, IF GOA GIVES IN TO EXISTING PRESSURES FOR ADDITION OF ITEMS, THAT SHARE WOULD RISE TO 35-40 PERCENT. SINCE
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AUSTRALIA IS NOW JAPAN'S SECOND MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER,

WITH TOTAL TRADE RUNNING ABOUT DOLS 6 BILLION, JAPAN IS VERY CONCERNED. BOTH KINOSHITA AND UKAWA (DIRECTOR, FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, WASHINGTON) READILY ADMITTED THAT JAPAN'S BARGAINING POSITION IS WEAKENED BY CONTINUATION OF VIRTUAL BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS (ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF WHICH COME FROM AUSTRALIA, AMOUNTING TO NEARLY DOLS 250 MILLION IN 1973). JAPAN, OF COURSE, WOULD LIKE TO SEPARATE THAT FROM OTHER ISSUES, BUT AUSTRALIANS DO NOT SEE IT THAT WAY.

2. BILATERAL TALKS ARE TAKING PLACE IN VARIOUS FORA. ARTICLE XIX TALKS ON AUSTRALIAN RESTRICTIONS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK, AND GOJ HAS ACCEDED TO AUSTRALIAN REQUEST THAT BEEF CONSULTATIONS UNDER ART. XXII BE HELD BY END OF MONTH. NEXT WEEK AUSTRALIAN TEAM HEADED BY LLOYD, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, WILL MEET INFORMALLY WITH MITI OFFICIALS. THEN MINISTERIAL-LEVEL ECONOMIC TALKS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2-3 IN CANBERRA, WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED ON JAPANESE SIDE BY FUMIMICHI MIYAZAWA, MITI MINISTER KOMOTO AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABE.

3. ABOVE-MENTIONED OFFICIALS DOUBTED THAT MUCH WOULD COME OF THESE TALKS IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC REMEDIAL ACTIONS BY GOA, BUT THEY EXPRESSED HOPE MEETINGS WOULD SERVE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOA. IN LAST ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, NEITHER OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR REVERSAL OF DIRECTION OF GOA'S TRADE POLICIES. AS UKAWA PUT IT, NEITHER GOJ, NOR MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, HAD NECESSARY LEVERAGE OVER AUSTRALIA TO GET IT TO CHANGE ITS POLICIES.

SHOESMITH

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